

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

**GENERAL ORDER: 2013 D 3**

**SUBJECT: Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Pro Bono Child Representative Pilot Program**

**Effective December 15, 2013, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

The purpose of this General Order is to create the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services ("CVLS") Pro Bono Child Representative Pilot Program ("CVLS Pilot Program").

Program Synopsis:

The CVLS Pilot Program is hereby created to address the increase in need of and decrease in availability of pro bono child representatives for the child for Domestic Relations Division cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Attorneys who participate in the CVLS Pilot Program shall be appointed to serve as child representatives for the child in Domestic Relations Division cases where neither party is represented by an attorney and the total combined annual income of the parties is equal to or less than \$75,000.00. Attorneys participating in the CVLS Pilot Program shall be supervised by a CVLS attorney who is licensed to practice law in Illinois and who meets all of the minimum requirements to become a child representative/guardian ad litem/attorney for the child pursuant to Cook County Circuit Court Rule 13.9.

Attorney Qualifications/Requirements:

In order to participate and remain in the CVLS Pilot Program, an attorney must:

1. Be licensed to practice law in Illinois;
2. Have no pending or past serious disciplinary actions;
3. Submit to background checks, if requested;
4. Be approved by CVLS to participate in the program;
5. Attend and complete all training programs required by CVLS; and
6. Attend and complete all training programs required by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations.

Once approved to participate in the CVLS Pilot Program, attorneys shall be required to attend a certain number of Domestic Relations Division Child Representative Seminars per year. The required number of seminars per year shall be determined by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division.

Eligibility to be Placed on Domestic Relations Division Child Representative List

Once an attorney has completed three (3) cases through the CVLS Pilot Program, the attorney may be placed on the Domestic Relations Division Child Representative List ("List") notwithstanding the attorney's inability to meet the minimum requirements to become a child representative/guardian ad litem/attorney for the child pursuant to Cook County Circuit Court Rule 13.9. In order to be placed and remain on the List, the attorney must:

1. Be licensed to practice law in Illinois;
2. Have no pending or past serious disciplinary actions;
3. Complete a notarized and sworn application provided by the Office of the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division;
4. Submit to an inquiry regarding all areas of the applicant's past and current profession and/or employment;
5. Submit to other background checks, if requested;
6. Submit to an interview by the Domestic Relations Division Child Representative Screening Committee or other entity designated by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division;
7. Be approved by CVLS for placement on the Domestic Relations Child Representative List;
8. Be approved by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division to participate in the program;
9. Have and maintain appropriate errors and omissions insurance coverage;
10. Agree to handle a reasonable number of matters representing children on a pro bono basis;
11. Attend and complete all training programs required by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division; and
12. Comply with any other requirements promulgated by the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division for CVLS Pilot Program participants.



If the attorney is added to the Child Representative List, they will have the equivalent status, responsibilities and obligations as any other attorney on the list.

Removal of Attorney from Pilot Program:

CVLS shall have the authority to remove an attorney from the CVLS Pilot Program at anytime prior to the attorney being placed on the Domestic Relations Division Child Representative List. Once the decision to remove an attorney from the program has been made, CVLS shall immediately inform the Office of the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. If the removed attorney was serving as a child representative for the child in a case at the time of the attorney's removal, CVLS shall immediately inform the litigants and the judge presiding over the case that the attorney is no longer able to serve as child representative.

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Effective December 15, 2013 and dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013, this Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

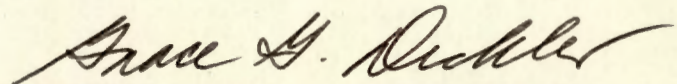
**ENTERED:**

**Date**

Presiding Judge  
Grace G. Dickler

NOV 13 2013

Circuit Court - 1521



**HON. GRACE G. DICKLER**  
**Presiding Judge**  
**Domestic Relations Division**